Ill effects of pesticides

806. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' of the 23rd October, 1985, under the caption 'Cancer-causing pesticides in market';

(b) whether it is a fact that as per FAO's estimate an average of 10000 people die every year due to pesticide poisoning; and

(c) if so what measures are proposed to be taken to ban the use of such cancer-causing pesticides and to educate the users of such pesticides?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We are not aware of any such report by FAO.

(c) The Registration Committee constituted under section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, consider the toxic effects of pesticides for taking appropriate action about their use in India which *inter-alia* Includes any harmful pesticides. The Government of India has also constituted a High level Expert Committee to review the use of all the pesticides which have been banned or restricted in other countries and are being used in India.

To help the users of pesticides to take safety precautions the labels and leaflets accompanied with the container of pesticides carry all the necessary information in minimum of three languages, including one regional language. Besides, the extension functionaries of both Central and State Governments periodically organise training for the benefit of farmers to ensure judicious and sale use of pesticides.

Imported sugar

807. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of sugar imported so far and the quantity of imported sugar which is yet to reach India;

(b) what is the landed cost of the imported sugar;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is less demand of the imported sugar and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government are advertising through T.V. and other media to encourage people to buy imported sugar; and

(e) what is the total amount spent by the Food Corporation of India and other Government agencies for advertising about imported sugar on T. V. and through other media?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Out of the quantity of 19.50 lakh tonnes of sugar imports planned during 1985-86 financial year, about 11.50 lakh tonnes have reached leaving a balance of about 8 lakh tonnes.

(b) The average c.i.f. cost for the sugar being imported by the State Trading Corporation of India during the fianancial year 1985-86 has presently worked out to about Rs. 2275 per tonne.

(c) There has been an offtake of about 6.15 lakh tonnes of imported sugar so far which would indicate that the demand for the same is normal.

(d) and (e) In order to remove misapprehansions from the minds of the general public about the quality of imported sugar and to make them aware of its availability at reasonable prices from various distribution channels, both the Delhi Administration and the Food Corporation of India have been giving publicity through T.V. and other media. The expendi-

ture involved in the release of 10 T.V. Spots by the Food Corporation of India was about Rs. 10 lakhs. The Delhi Administration has spent about Rs. 31,000 for publicity on T.V. and other media.

Loss of food-grains suffered by FCI

808. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the absence of proper storage and maintenance facilities, a large quantity of food-grains of the Food Corporation of India rots every year;

(b) what is the loss incurred by the Food Corporation of India on this account every year during the last three years; and

(c) what efforts have been made to increase storage capacity and ensure effective maintenance of foodgrains procured by F.C.I. and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Qualified Technical Personnel of Food Corporation of India take care of foodgrain stocks during storage. However, at times, damage to foodgrains occur on account of floods, cyclones and rains, etc. as well as transit and storage. Details of foodgrains thus damaged during the last 3 years are given below :—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

As on	Total food-grains stock stored by FCI in covered/ CAP	Total stocks damaged during the corresponding year ending 31st March	%age of stocks damaged.
1-4-82	100.20	0.78	0.77
1-4-83	112.30	0.48	0.42
1-4-84	117.80	1.01	0.86

(c) To augment the storage capacity and ensure effective maintenance of foodgrains procured by FCI, the following steps have been/are being taken :—

(i) During 1985-86 the FCI, Central Warehousing Corporation and the State Warehousing Corporations taken together are expected to construct additional covered storage capacity of 16.95 lakh tonnes for foodgrains;

(ii) FCI is also making temporary storage arrangement by hiring additional covered storage capacity from CFC, SWCs and other sources;

(iii) FCI is exploring the possibility of getting storage capacity constructed through private parties against loans to be given by the commercial banks to such parties;

(iv) Steps are being taken by the Corporation to step up utilisation of the available storage capacity by increasing the stack height; and

(v) The stocks are maintained by qualified staff by following the prescribed techniques.

Restrictions on high rise buildings in the Capital

809. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to